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MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1956



To the Chairman and Members
of the
Melford Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Melford Rural District for the year 1956.

It will be noted that during the year the estimated population diminished slightly. No deaths resulted from the Notifiable Diseases, although there was again a sharp epidemic of Measles during the summer months.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement during the year. The Clerk of the Council, Mr. J.A. Shaw, the Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. J.A.E. Burrows, and the Water Engineer, Mr. H.J. Harrington, have given willing assistance for which I am most grateful.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

(Figures in brackets relate to the previous year).

Area of the District.	47,270 acres.
Rateable Value.	£51,996 £93,953.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate..	(£209.14s.-d.) £380. 1s. 8d.
Number of inhabited houses.	(4414) 4473
Population (Registrar General's Estimate) . . .	(12,980) 12,890

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births:

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	(86)	78	(80)	83 (166) 161
Illegitimate.	(3)	2	(5)	3 (8) 5
 Totals.	(89)	80	(85)	86 (174) 166
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)	(13.4)			12.9
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (adjusted)	(13.5)			13.0
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	(15.0)			15.7
Illegitimate Birth Rate.			(4.6%)	3.0%

Still Births:

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	(1)	3	(1)	1 (2) 4
Illegitimate.	(-)	-	(-)	1 (-) 1
 Totals.	(1)	3	(1)	2 (2) 5
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live & still births	(11.9)			29.3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live & still births (England and Wales)	(23.1)			23.0

Deaths:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(75) 88	(69) 91	(144) 179

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude) (11.1) 13.9

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population
(adjusted) (9.1) 12.4

Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales) (11.7) 11.7

Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion. (Nil) Nil

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	...	(5) 4	(3) 1	(8) 5
Illegitimate.	...	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Totals...	...	(5) 4	(3) 1	(8) 5

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:

- (a) All infants per 1,000 live births. ... (46.0) 30.1
 (b) All infants England and Wales. (24.9) 23.8

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age:

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	...	(5) 4	(3) -	(8) 4
Illegitimate.	...	(-),-	(-) -	(-) -
Totals...	...	(5) 4	(3) -	(8) 4

CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Disease</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles.	... ...	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Whooping Cough.	...	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Diphtheria....	...	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Influenza. ...	...	(1) -	(1) 2	(2) 2
Cancer (All types) ..		(15) 17	(14) 15	(29) 32
Vascular Lesions				
of the nervous system		(6) 10	(9) 20	(15) 30
Heart Disease (All forms).	(18)	29	(24) 34	(42) 63
Diabetes. ...	...	(-) -	(1) -	(1) -
Pneumonia. ...	...	(7) 5	(5) 3	(12) 8
Bronchitis....	...	(3) 5	(4) 1	(7) 6
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.		(1) 5	(-) 2	(1) 7
Nephritis. ...	...	(1) -	(1) -	(2) -
Accidents (Not motor vehicles) ...		(2) 1	(-) 3	(2) 4
Accidents (Motor Vehicles)	(-)	-	(-) -	(-) -
Suicide.	(1) -	(-) -	(1) -
Other defined and ill- defined diseases.		(20) 16	(10) 11	(30) 27
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	Totals...	(75) 88	(69) 91	(144) 179
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SECTION B.

1. Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health, who also serves other districts.

Senior Public Health Inspector, whole time,
J.A.E. Burrows, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector, whole time,
I.C. Hazell, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

2. Ambulance Facilities

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service.

3. Nursing in the Home

The West Suffolk County Council's Home Nursing and Midwifery service supply six District Nurses.

4. The West Suffolk County Council provide four Infant Welfare Centres in the District at Long Melford, Glemsford, Nayland and Great Waldingfield.

5. Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service, directed by the Medical Research Council at Ipswich has given the district very generous service.

The Public Analyst for the County has given reports on the analysis of the water in the area.

SECTION C.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

The following Report is submitted by Mr. H.J. Harrington, the Council's Water Engineer:

During the year ended 31st March, 1957, the Public Water Supplies in the Council's area have been satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

At the end of March, 1957, 3,997 houses were receiving a piped water supply, 2,651 having a Laid-on supply and 1,346 properties were served by means of Standpipes in Gardens.

Below is set out detailed information relating to each Parish:

<u>Parish.</u>		<u>Laid-on Supplies.</u>	<u>Standpipe Supplies.</u>	<u>Total Number of propert- ies connected</u>
Acton. . . . .	... . . . .	141	27	168
Assington. . . . .	... . . . .	80	38	118
Great Cornard. . . . .	... . . . .	445	65	510
Little Cornard. . . . .	... . . . .	52	29	81
Chilton. . . . .	... . . . .	61	22	83
Leavenheath. . . . .	... . . . .	59	30	89
Newton. . . . .	... . . . .	64	34	98
Long Melford. . . . .	... . . . .	494	288	782
Great Waldingfield. . . . .	... . . . .	76	70	146
Little Waldingfield. . . . .	... . . . .	55	19	74
Stoke-by-Nayland.. . . . .	... . . . .	155	58	213
Nayland. . . . .	... . . . .	196	45	241
Alpheton. . . . .	... . . . .	52	20	72
Boxted. . . . .	... . . . .	25	-	25
Glemsford. . . . .	... . . . .	207	392	599
Hartest. . . . .	... . . . .	90	30	120
Lawshall.	98	48	146
Shimpling.	68	18	86
Stanstead.	35	49	84
Somerton.	18	15	33
Bures.	180	49	229
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Totals.	<u>2,651</u>	<u>1,346</u>	<u>3,997</u>
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The consumption per head per day of the Population served on the various Schemes was as follows:

Central Area Scheme - Source of Supply, Great Cornard Bore -

Serving the Parishes of Great and Little Cornard, Long Melford, Acton, Great and Little Waldingfield, Newton and Leavenheath -
12.08 gallons per head per day. (12.50.)

Stoke-by-Nayland Scheme - Source of Supply - Bore, Scotland Street, Stoke-by-Nayland -

Serving the Parishes of Stoke-by-Nayland and Nayland with Wissington - 20.53 gallons per head per day. (14.96.)

Northern Area Water Scheme - Supply purchased in Bulk from Thingoe Rural District Council -

Serving the Parishes of Glemsford, Stanstead, Boxted, Hartest, Somerton, Lawshall, Shimpling and Alpheton - 14.48 gallons per head per day. (19.57.)

Bures Scheme - Supply purchased in Bulk from Lexden & Winstree Rural District Council - Serving the Parish of Bures only - 15.20 gallons per head per day. (20.34.)

Figures in Parentheses refer to year 1955.

None of the sources of supply tended to have Plumbo-Solvent action.

Examination of Supplies.

All supplies were analysed during the year, by the Council's Analyst, at The Analytical Laboratory, Haywards Heath, Sussex, in accordance with the Water Abstraction Regulations, 1947, and all proved to be very satisfactory.

The total amount of water supplied during the year for domestic and non-domestic purposes was 104,004,000 gallons.

REPORT OF MR. J. A. E. BURROWS

Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector

WATER SUPPLIES - Private.

Supplies of water from four wells and one spring were investigated. Two wells serving a single group of cottages on an isolated farm were found to be unsatisfactory, one being heavily polluted with faecal coli. The owner agreed to connect these cottages to the Council's mains supply.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

The sewerage of Stoke-by-Nayland was completed during the year, the sewage discharging into the new works already serving Nayland. "Teething troubles" giving rise to offensive smells in the village were immediately experienced but were remedied before the end of the year. 97 properties in Nayland and 61 in Stoke-by-Nayland have been connected to the sewers, including 28 Council Houses in Nayland and 22 in Stoke-by-Nayland.

The constructional work for the Bures Scheme was commenced.

Despite every possible effort by the Council permission to proceed with the sewerage of Long Melford could not be obtained, but an Inquiry by an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in November regarding the Disposal Works Site encouraged hopes that 1957 would witness the start of the Scheme.

Conditions in the northern half of Glemsford continued to deteriorate with an increased number of water-closets connected to the old sewers which discharge into open ditches alongside residential property.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Refuse collection scheme remains unchanged.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

The demands on the services of the three cleansing units in respect of the emptying of cesspools on the various housing estates under the control of the Council, continued to be very heavy, with the result that at times the work for private houses was five to six weeks in arrear. 5,196 loads of sewage were removed from Council Estates, while from private houses 491 emptyings were made from 311 properties. These properties are distributed throughout the District as follows:-

Acton.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Alpheton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Assington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Boxted.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bures.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Chilton.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Glemsford	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Great Cornard.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Great Waldingfield.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Hartest.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Lawshall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Leavenheath.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Little Cornard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Little Waldingfield.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Long Melford.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Nayland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Wissington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Newton.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Shimpling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Somerton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stanstead	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Stoke-by-Nayland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION.

A weekly service continued to be provided under Contract for Long Melford, Bures St. Mary, Great Cornard and parts of Glemsford and Chilton.

NUISANCES.

49 complaints of various kinds were received, investigated and informal action taken where necessary. No statutory action was required.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Slaughterhouses - Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed. ...	3,299	14	84	2,452	5,414
Number inspected ...	3,201	14	83	2,340	5,168

All Diseases except Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned	3	-	-	-	10
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	149	1	-	-	25
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	4.7	7.1	-	-	.7

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned.	5	-	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	119	-	-	-	84
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuberculosis.	3.9	-	-	-	1.6

95.9 % of all animals killed received a post mortem inspection.

At wholesale and retail shops the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption:-

Meat Products.	...	...	...	24-tins.
Vegetable Products..	...	...	...	3-tins.
Fruit Products.	...	...	...	51-tins.
Fish Products..	...	...	...	2-tins.

FOOD PREMISES.

Butchers' Shops.

Nine premises were registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture of sausages.

Wet Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Two shops were registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the frying of fish and one for the smoking of fish.

Sale of Ice Cream.

Thirty-three premises were registered under Section 14 Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of ice cream.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, etc.

There were fourteen persons registered as Distributors of Milk in the District, and four premises (not being dairy farms) were registered as Dairies.

Ten dealers were licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and Pasteurised Milk.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955-56.

Pressure of work has prevented any intensive programme being carried out, but a considerable amount of advice has been given and shop-keepers were, on the whole, co-operative.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council continued to employ one rodent operator who toured the District on a fixed programme. By this means it was found possible to prevent the build-up of any major infestation of rats on residential or business premises. No statutory action was found necessary.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Nineteen houses were made fit following informal action.

SECTION G.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease Notified during Year.

CASES NOTIFIED.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Civilian</u>			<u>1956.</u>	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	15	1	35	29
Whooping Cough.	30	35	137	67
Measles.	415	122	-	358
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia.	28	15	19	32
Erysipelas	1	-	1	6
Ophthalmia - Neonatorum	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever.	1	-	1	-
Infective Hepatitis.	6	1	2	1
Dysentery.	14	4	3	10
Paratyphoid Fever	2	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.	-	4	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total all Types
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No: of cases on register at commencement of year.	21	28	49	2	8	10	59
No: of cases added during the year.	1	2	3	1	2	3	6
No: of cases removed during the year.	1	1	2	-	3	3	5
No: remaining on register at end of year.	21	29	50	3	7	10	60

SECTION E.

ANTHRAX ORDER, 1938.

Several cases of anthrax in livestock were notified. The disposal of the carcases of these animals, either by deep burial in lime or by incineration, was supervised.

SECTION G.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No case arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

